

May

Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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Click slide to see Results of a Hard Spring Walk



The Magic Lantern Calendar – May 2023

Events

May 7, 2023, ***Children's Magic Lantern Show and Optical Toy Making*** Activity, Dawn Elliott and Joel Schlemowitz will present a children's program, followed by hands-on activities, Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh, 75 Mills Mansion Dr., Staatsbug, NY 12580.

May 13, 2023, ***Lantern Show at the D&H Canal Museum***, Elliot & Schlemowitz, magic lanternists Joel Schlemowitz and Dawn Elliot present a 19th century magic lantern show with a variety of short stories, poems and jokes, D&H Canal Museum, 1315 Rt 213, High Falls, NY. Rain date May 14.

May 13, 2023, ***The Ephemeral Archive: A magic lantern performance***, Curator Phillip Roberts takes us through the history of media machines, told with a real magic lantern. Friends of the Bodleian Lunchtime Lecture Series, Sir Victor Blank Lecture Theatre, Weston Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG, U.K.

May 18, 2023, ***The Magic Lantern Show***, St. Mary's Music Hall, 8 Church End, London, UK.

May 28, 2023, ***Mystery Airships: A Night of Strange Things Seen in the Skies***, an X-Files-like journey of Close Encounters of the Prussian kind, the mystery of the German Airship Histeria that swept over Victoria in 1914. Ballarat Observatory, 439 Cobden St., Mount Pleasant, VIC 3350, Australia.

July 6-9, 2023, ***Alice in Wonderland***, real vintage magic lantern show using a rare complete set of projector slides from 1905, Duston Community Centre, Pendle Road, Northampton, NN6 6DT UK.

July 22, 2023, ***Summer Meeting 2023***, Magic Lantern Society, Lacey Green Millenium Hall, Main Road, Lacey Green HP27 0QN, Buckinghamshire, England, UK.

Sept. 16, 2023, ***James Burgess's Magic Lantern Show***, showing sculptures and props including a complete original Alice in Wonderland magic lantern set from 1905, Hastings Steampunk Festival, White Rock Theatre, White Rock, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1JX, England, UK.

Oct. 14, 2023, ***Autumn meeting 2023***, Magic Lantern Society, The Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS, England, UK.

The Magic Lantern Calendar – May 2023 continued

Exhibits

Through Dec. 2026, *The Story of the Moving Image*, includes shadow puppets, Victorian-era magic lanterns, original cameras and more, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Fed Square, Melbourne, Australia <https://www.acmi.net.au/whats-on/story-of-the-moving-image-exhibition/>.

Ongoing, *Art in Science, Science in Art: The Whipple Museum Collection*, the history of science presentation and methods for making and disseminating new knowledge, Whipple Museum of the History of Science, University of Cambridge, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, England, UK.

Ongoing, *The Path to Cinema: Highlights from the Richard Balzer Collection*, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles CA USA. 9,000 magic lantern objects collected by former MLS president Richard Balzer. <https://www.academymuseum.org/en/exhibitions/path-to-cinema>

Ongoing, *From Shadows to Film...and all the magic in between!* Kent Museum of the Moving Image, Stanhope Road, Deal, Kent CT14 6AD UK <https://www.kentmomi.org/>

Online

Life Through the Lens, images from the collection, Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/life-through-the-lens-royal-albert-memorial-museum-art-gallery/5QVRnVyn4BS2Jw?hl=en>

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Thursday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.

Information about Magic Lantern by J S & Co of New York

From Jerry Wideen
gwideen@yahoo.com

To: Wells, Kentwood

Hello

I don't know if your still working with the Magic Lantern group, but I was looking for some help, and maybe you could steer me in the right direction?

I bought this magic lantern off ebay and I have hopes of rounding up, or at least identifying the missing light source. There is some clear documentation on the device, and I haven't researched much, but I would like to find out more about this one. Do you have any available sources to help? I was going to research the company thru the Thomas registry or a library in New York.

I have lantern slides drawn by a civil war veteran that I hoped to pair up with this projector for a display at our library. Thanks you for any help you can give me.
Jerry Wideen

From Kentwood Wells
kentwood.wells@uconn.edu

Thanks for your note. It is hard to see what sort of light might have been used for this lantern because of the orientation of the photo—some models were sold with a choice of different illuminants. For actual projection with the lantern, most people today would rig up an LED light system that gives a bright light with minimal heat.

I am copying your message to our Corresponding Secretary, who can put your inquiry in our next email newsletter so other members can chime in with their information.



**1891 JS & Co New York
"The Yale" magic lantern**

From David Evans

Thank you Kentwood for passing this on. J S & Co of New York made several different magic lanterns, such as Duplex and Improved Duplex, but so far I have been unable to discover the full name of the company. If it had been German it would probably have been Jean Schoener, but they were not in New York, so that is not the answer, Let us hope that one of our members can come up with something after we put it in the next e-publication Strange that this one has lost its lamp house.

Regards

David

INFORMATION

Request

**Anyone have
information about
J S & Co of New York
please share with us!**



For The Gazette

From David Evans

Hi We are looking for articles for the next issue of the Gazette - anyone have anything they'd like to contribute? Best wishes David & Lesley

Contact The Correspondence Secretary <magiclanternsocietyusc33@aol.com>



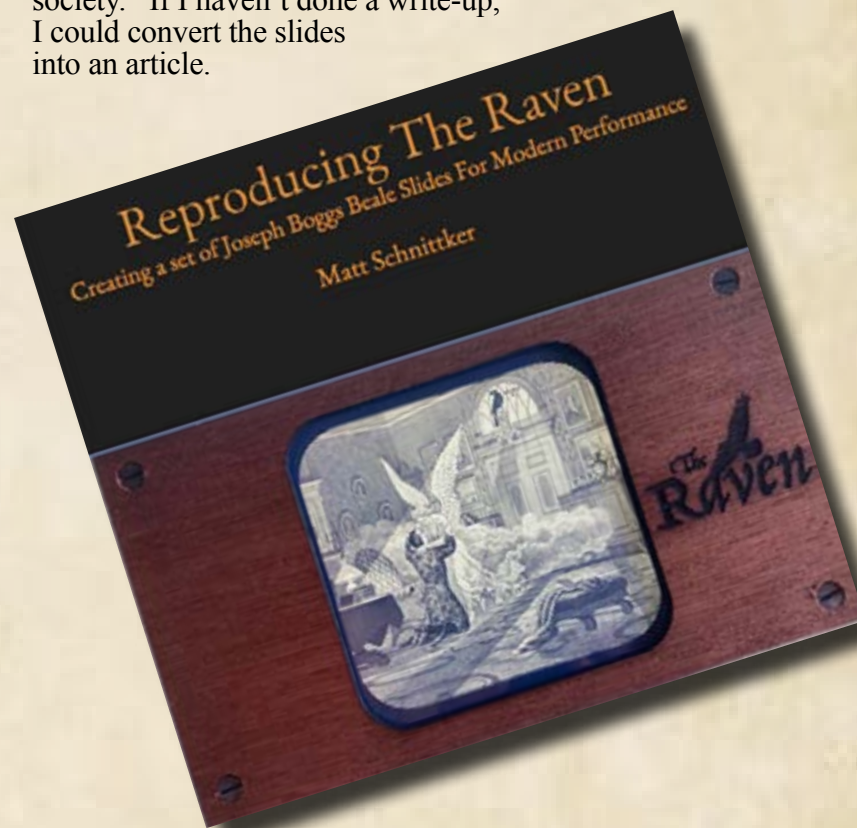
Be A
Contributor

COMING
SOON

A Possible
Contributor

From Matt Schnittker
mschnitt@gmail.com

I forget, did I ever do a write up on how I created the slides for The Raven? I presented slides for the British society. If I haven't done a write-up, I could convert the slides into an article.



T. H. McAllister Magic Lantern Slides

From Haruka Miki

haruka-m@gb4.so-net.ne.jp

Dear Correspondence Secretary,

My name is Haruka Miki, a postdoctoral fellow at the Research Institute for Humanities, Gakushuin University, in Tokyo.

I write to inquire about a set of T. H. McAllister magic lantern slides I came across at a university in Japan. Attached are three of the twelve slides entitled "The Drunkard's Progress," whose illustrations are different from those of any slide sets listed on LUCERNA (the Magic Lantern Web Resource) as works by George Cruikshank: <https://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/person/index.php?language=EN&id=6001636>.

May I ask if these slides were originally painted by George Cruikshank and how scarce they are?
I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,
Haruka

Haruka Miki, PhD (History of Art)
Postdoctoral Fellow, Research Institute for Humanities
Gakushuin University, Tokyo



From David Evans

Dear Haruka

Thank you for your enquiry about The Drunkard's Progress.

Having looked into this, I have a couple of comments.

George Cruikshank was a British cartoonist and illustrator of books and other printed matter. He published his illustrations in paper form and did not paint lantern slides. Magic lantern slide makers such as York and son in England

certainly used his illustrations to make slide sets, the Drunkard's Children, as you point out on Lucerna, undoubtedly used Cruikshank's illustrations.

Your set, kindly attached to your email, shows a different artistic style, and I would suggest they are more after the work of John Barber.

"The drunkard's progress, or the direct road to poverty, wretchedness & ruin

continued next page

T. H. McAllister Magic Lantern Slides continued

by John Warner Barber, 1798-1885, engraver. Published: New Haven, 1826. Print shows four scenes of the drunkard's progress: the morning dram (father drinking at 8am, ignoring wife and children), the grog shop (bar room brawls, passed out, vomiting, and drinking customers), the confirmed drunkard (father on floor, wife and children afraid, home falling apart), and concluding scene (family evicted, home up for auction)."

As McAllister was an American slide maker so it seems likely they would have used an American illustrator's work for their story sets.

You can find his illustrations at

<https://www.alamy.com/the-drunkards-progress-or-the-direct-road-to-poverty-wretchedness-image68549955.html?imageid=2F61737B-EBFB-4F8D-9D2F-70F4C55597F2&p=75935&pn=1&searchId=b53893e3cf81ffb570f89394d57e54a2&searchtype=0>

I hope that may help a little.

David Evans

Rare Collection of Lantern Slides For Sale



From Susan Conroy
scconroy@aol.com

To Whom it may concern:
I own a rare set of lantern slides, illustrated by Jean de Brunhoff, the original illustrator of the Babar series of children's books. I have enclosed an example of one of the slides, the original box that enclosed the slides and a detailed description of the background of these works of art.

Please let me know if you have any interest in purchasing these slides for your collection.

Thank you,
Susan Conroy
305-725-8486

Dear David,
Thank you for offering to put my lantern slides collection in your next e-publication. To be clear, I am interested in selling this collection. I am located in Miami, Florida.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,
Susan Conroy



The following is the provenance of the lantern slides: My surrogate grandfather figure and best friend for twenty years, early in my life, was Samuel Latham Mitchell Barlow. Simbo, as he was known to his worldwide circle of friends, was a Harvard educated musician and composer. Before World War I, and for two decades thereafter, he was active in New York civic and professional groups formed to promote innovative forms of music. Sometime during the mid-1930's, Maestro Leopold Stokowski and Sam Barlow collaborated on a novelty music piece called "Babar, a Symphonic Concerto for Magic Lantern." Simbo left me these most charming, original works of art. The original illustrator of the children's Babar series of books, Jean de Brunhoff (1899-1937), prepared these slides for an early form of multimedia theatrical presentation at the Philadelphia Orchestra. Later, this program was taken on tour by Maestro Stokowski. After the tour, the



From David Evans

Dear Susan

The Society does not have a collection or museum of its own, but suggest that we put your offer in our next e-publication (May) that goes to all our members in the hope that there will be interest in your items. If so, they would contact you directly. Where are you located please? It may affect shipping costs.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans



FINALLY! A catalog (with photos) of ALL 175+ vintage film cameras I have FOR SALE!

From B Melcher
tech@zembugroup.com

Hi!
This is a long email
- Please read this
thoroughly before
heading to the album.

As you may know, I
have the daunting task
of liquidating a large
collection of vintage film
cameras and accessories.
I have been in contact with
many of you and the common
request has been "Please send me a
list of what you have!". Of course,
knowing next to nothing about
cameras (and having hundreds to deal
with), I have been reluctant to make an
inventory. Until now.

The links at the bottom of this email will
bring you to a Google spreadsheet (also
attached as pdf) & photo album showing
all the cameras I still have.
Each photo (there is only one per camera)
has related information, showing the
make and model of the camera. My

wife and I spent many hours photographing
and identifying these through the use of online
searches and the excellent McKeown's Guide.
The spreadsheet is just the text of the photo
album, copied into a list. If you look at the
info attached to each photo you will see that it
matches.

You CAN buy just one!

I am almost 100% certain
about the
identification and
show a "?" if not.
I did not spend any
time cleaning any
of these cameras
as many collectors
prefer to do that
themselves.

My goal is to sell these
cameras as quickly and
easily as possible. I have
learned quite a bit during
this cataloging project,
and I have already sold well over
75 (others, before I created this
inventory) so I'm not entirely
clueless about pricing/value but
at the same time, I'd like these to be at
least appreciated in their new homes, if
not restored to their former glory and used
to capture images. Many are functional
(although not tested with film) even after
100+ years! All are sold as-is with no
guarantees.

continued next page



175 Cameras For Sale continued

With that said, I am willing (provided your offer is of sufficient value) to: Take several photos or a quick video to confirm it's what you want. Again, depending on your offer, I am also willing to clean them before shipping. All shipping will be from Portland, Maine (ZIP 04102) and I strongly prefer USPS Priority Mail though I have access to both Fedex and UPS. Shipping costs will be added to our agreed-upon price, with no markup and no fees for packing materials (I try to use recycled materials whenever possible).

These photos are just of the cameras; I also have literally HUNDREDS of flashbulbs, film, cases, flashes, lenses, filters, shoes, bags, manuals and other paraphernalia but it was too much to catalog. First step is to sell the cameras! If items are in the photo, they are included in the purchase (you will see some photos are of a camera and a case, for example)

Everything is first come, first served and it's all MAKE AN OFFER; I'd prefer not to hold things since keeping track of all that can be cumbersome. Multiple item-purchases are welcome. I accept Paypal (tech@zembugroup.com) and Venmo (@zembu), but please

do NOT use "goods and services" or if you do, add 5% to cover those fees. If you'd like to see/handle/test/purchase in person, you're welcome to come to Maine!

I'm happy to hear more detail about any camera you see, and will amend the info if important details come to light (feel free to correct my identification if you think I'm wrong) but I don't want to entertain arguments or long discourse about them - while I find these old machines beautiful and at times stunning in their engineering and design, I am not a collector (or I would keep them myself!).

If you have questions, please let me know. I'm excited by the prospect of finding these cameras a new home.

Bill
Portland, Maine
Photo album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xH3vJucRv8w4XEKk8>

Spreadsheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1COZ8Sqa2zS6JOLIKpZ8rLU8nU02I8Gp_pc5rCltkRRI/edit?usp=sharing

Also, the photos are just a single quick representative of each camera. If you're interested in one, of course I can send more detailed pics or a quick video.

Finally, don't be shy - if you see something you like, make an offer. I won't be offended; this is just business.

Thanks,
Bill

P.S. Please feel free to forward this to anyone who may be interested.





Wanted Religious Biblical Slides

Slide #1: "A little child shall lead the animals"

from Briggs & Co.



From Sam Grosdemange

samgrosdemange@gmail.com

Dear friends,
We are looking for these 2 religious slides for our next magic lantern show:

I am still looking for many religious slides but especially these two. See the file attached below.

Is it possible to publish this WANTED ad in the next Epub Gazette please ?

Many thanks for your help.
Samuel Grosdemange
samgrosdemange@gmail.com

Slide #2: Hell

**from Briggs & Co.
(with or without the caption "mene, mene, tekel, upharsin")**



Magic Lantern and Tintype Studio at Columbia, California



From Matt Schnittker

Larry,. I thought folks might enjoy seeing some fun pictures.

Columbia, California is an 1850's Gold Rush town where \$87 Million dollars of gold was discovered. It lives on today as an active town for tourists and visitors as well as a State Historic Park. I spent Saturday and Sunday of Easter Weekend in Columbia with my Magic Lantern and Tintype studio. I thought folks would enjoy a few photos of the event. I was set up in what is called "Miner's Hall" which is a reproduction of an older building that sat on the main street.

continued next page

Magic Lantern and Tintype Studio at Columbia, California continued



We also set up a sign on the main avenue for folks to come see our



We also brought our Tintype studio and made some portraits for folks. Here's my daughter Emily getting ready with the camera and the darkroom.

shows. I like doing shows in small venues like this because folks wander in as part of a small group. I can give short shows that I can tailor to the audience. It also gives me a chance to try different jokes or spin stories in different directions and see which resonate better with different groups. It adds a bit of improv to my routine!



Gotta watch out for those Magic Lantern performers!

The darkroom uses natural light shining through a red glass.



continued next page

Columbia, California continued

Portraits were made using the North facing wall of the Magic Lantern theater.



Overall a fun event doing Magic Lantern shows and making Tintypes in 1850's Columbia.

Home Amusements

are best. And the best home amusement is furnished by a McAllister magic lantern or stereopticon. A perpetual source of delight and instruction to children and of pleasure to their elders.

McALLISTER'S Magic Lanterns AND STEREOPTICONS

are made in various styles and sizes—that bring the cost within everybody's means.

A veritable cyclopedia (250 pages) of magic lantern knowledge mailed free to anyone that writes for it.

T. H. McALLISTER,
49 Nassau Street, N. Y.
76 Washington Street,
Chicago.

the Yearlings
1896

A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this month's issue.

Susan Conroy	Brian Rogers
David Evans	Matt Schnittker
Sam Grosdemange	Kentwood Wells
Bill Melcher	Jerry Wideen
Haruka Miki	

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry

Slides at Online Auction



From
Blue Box Auction Gallery ~ Sold
sold@blueboxauction.com

Hello,

We are writing to you from Virginia Beach where we are hosting an online auction that contains several glass slides for a magic lantern show that your group may be interested in. These slides depict the story of Robinson Crusoe, Cinderella, and two different styles of Don Quixote. Most of the glass slides are printed, and some also seem to be hand-painted. All captions are in French.

We'd like to encourage you to tell your friends and fellow collectors, and to check out the rest of the auction if you're interested. It also features many vintage cameras, ceramics, and unique historical artifacts.

You can view the slides at
<https://bid.blueboxauction.com/ui/auctions/99474/11491470>